

أهمية التوحيد وعاقبة الإعراض عنه

THE IMPORTANCE OF TAHWEED AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISREGARDING IT

FROM “LESSONS FROM THE QUR’AN” BY
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Someone might say (and this has been said) **“What is it with this constant concern for tawheed and why do you speak so much about it?! But, at the same time, you do not discuss current Muslim matters, such as Muslims who are being killed, displaced throughout the lands or are being persecuted by non-Muslim countries!”**

We say, with Allah lies all success:

Tawheed is the foundation upon which the pure monotheistic religion (المِلَّةُ الْحَنِيفِيَّةُ) is built, and thus paying attention to tawheed is paying attention to the foundation [of this religion]. If we were to ponder over the Noble Qur’an, we would find that it provides a complete clarification of tawheed, to the extent that there is no chapter in the Qur’an except that it gives mention to tawheed and forbids its opposite. Imam ibn al-Qayyim stated that the whole Qur’an is related to tawheed because it informs us about Allah’s Names and Attributes, which constitutes the knowledge-based type of tawheed (التَّوْحِيدُ الْعِلْمِيُّ) which is **Tawheed ar-Ruboobiyah**. It also commands us to worship Allah, alone, without any partner and forbids all forms of shirk. And this constitutes the action-based and pursuit type of tawheed (التَّوْحِيدُ الْعَمَلِيُّ وَالطَّلْبِيُّ), which is **Tawheed al-Uloohiyah**.

¹ Translated by Abu Ameenah AbdurRahmān Bennett.

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It also commands with obedience to Allah and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and forbids disobedience to Allah and His Messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) and all of this is from the rights and accomplishments of tawheed.

The Qur'an also informs about the happiness, success and victories that the true monotheists (المُؤَدِّين) will experience in this world and in the hereafter. It also informs us about the punishments that will befall the polytheists (المُشْرِكِينَ) in this world and in the hereafter, and about the permanent and everlasting punishment that has been prepared for them in the hellfire. This all relates to those who fulfilled the rights of tawheed and those who neglected the rights of tawheed.

Thus, the whole Qur'an revolves around the subject of tawheed, and if you were to look closely at the chapters that were revealed during the Meccan period, you would find that most of them are concerning tawheed. This is because the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) spent thirteen years calling to tawheed in Mecca and renouncing shirk. The majority of the Islamic obligations, such as the zakāt, fasting and other matters pertaining to the halal and the haram, were not revealed until after the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) migrated to Madinah, with the exception of the prayer which was enjoined upon him during the his ascension through the heavens during the night journey. However, this took place just before the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) migrated to Madinah.

So this was why the majority of the Meccan chapters, which were revealed to the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) prior to his migration, dealt with matters of tawheed, which is indicative of its importance, and that the obligatory duties were only revealed after tawheed had settled and become deeply rooted in the hearts and when the correct creed had become evident and manifest. And this is because no good deed is valid except in the presence of tawheed and they have no basis except on tawheed.

The Qur'an makes evident that the first thing all the Messengers (عليهم الصلاة والسلام) called to before anything was the call to tawheed. He, the Most High, states,

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا الطَّاغُوتَ ۗ

And We certainly sent into every nation a messenger, [saying], "Worship Allah and avoid Taghut."

[An Nahl 36]

And He, the Most High, states,

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ مِنْ رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا نُوحِي إِلَيْهِ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنَا فَاعْبُدُونِ ٢٥

And We did not send before you any messenger but We revealed to him that there is no god but Me, therefore worship Me.

[Al Anbiyā 25]

And so every prophet said to his people

يَقَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ ٥٩

“O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other Ilah (God) but Him.”

[Al A'raf 59]

And so this was the concern of the Messenger (عليهم الصلاة والسلام) to start their mission with tawheed. And likewise, it was the first concern of those who followed the Messengers, the callers and reformists, because every call to Islam that is not founded on tawheed will end up being a call to failure – neither will its objectives be achieved and nor will it have a good outcome. Every call to Islam that trivialises tawheed and does not give it its due importance will fail in its outcome. And this is something witnessed and known through observation. By the permission of Allah, every call to Islam that concentrates on tawheed ends up being a successful call to Islam which bear fruits and benefits the society, as history shows.

As for the state of the Muslims then we do not lack concern regarding their affairs. On the contrary, we are concerned with the state of the Muslims and we defend and support them and try to prevent them from being harmed by every possible means. Muslims being killed and displaced is not something that sits easy with us. However, our concern for the Muslims is not just to shed tears, to shout and scream for the whole world to hear or to express our grief and sorrow. This will not avail anyone.

The real cure, however, for the state of the Muslims is that we firstly search for the causes that have brought about these punishments which have befallen the Muslims and have allowed their enemies to gain mastery over them. So what has caused the enemies of the Muslims to gain mastery over them?

When we look at the Muslim world, we find that the majority of those who associate themselves with Islam are not holding fast to Islam, except for those upon whom Allah bestows his Mercy. They are merely Muslims by name and the correct belief amongst most of them is missing. They worship things besides Allah; they are devoted to saint and grave worshiping; they do not perform the daily prayer, give the zakāt or fast and they do not carry out what Allah has enjoined upon them. And from the things that he has enjoined upon us is to physically and mentally prepare for jihad against non-Muslim [enemies]! And this is the state of many of those who associate themselves with Islam. They have abandoned and neglected their religion and, as a result, Allah, the Mighty and Majestic, has caused them to suffer this loss.

From the primary causes of the Muslims being inflicted with these punishments is their disregard for tawheed and their involvement in shirk. They do not forbid one another from shirk and they do not denounce it! Even those who do not practice shirk among them do not denounce it. Actually, they do not even consider it as an act of shirk! So these are from the primary causes of the Muslims being inflicted with these punishments.

If only the Muslims would hold fast to their religion and establish tawheed and their creedal beliefs according to the Book and the Sunnah and that they hold fast altogether to the rope of Allah and be not divided then they would not be in the state they find themselves in. Allah, the Most High, says,

وَلَيَنْصُرَنَّ اللَّهُ مَن يَنْصُرُهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَقَوِيٌّ عَزِيزٌ ۚ الَّذِينَ إِن مَّكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَءَاتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ ۝١

And Allah will surely support those who support Him. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might. [And they are] those who, if We give them authority in the land, establish prayer and give zakah and enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. And to Allah belongs the outcome of [all] matters.

[Al Hajj, 40-41]

Allah makes clear that this support for the Muslims will not take place except by implementing these pillars mentioned by Allah. And they the establishment of the prayer, giving the zakat and enjoining the good and forbidding the evil. Where are these [obligatory] affairs taking place among the Muslims today?! Where is the prayer among these people who claim to follow Islam?!

Allah, the Most High, states,

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا
أَسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ
خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ۗ

Allah has promised those among you who believe, and do righteous good deeds, that He will certainly grant them succession to (the present rulers) in the earth, as He granted it to those before them, and that He will grant them the authority to practice their religion, that which He has chosen for them (i.e. Islam). And He will surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear...

[An Nur 55]

However, where is the condition for this promise [to be actualised]?

يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا ۗ

(Provided) they (believers) worship Me.

[An Nur 55]

Allah makes clear that granting of succession and authority in the land will not materialise until the condition mentioned by Allah is itself achieved, and it is the worship of him, alone, without any partners, and this is tawheed. Thus, this benevolent promise will only take place due to those who carry out tawheed by worshipping Allah, alone, without any partners, and included in this worship is prayer, fasting, zakah, hajj and all other acts of obedience.

Allah did not just say **“(Provided) they (believers) worship Me”**; rather, he followed it up with **“and do not associate anything (in worship) with Me”**. And this is because worship is of no use when done in the presence of shirk. Therefore, shirk in all of its forms and shapes must be avoided, and shirk [by definition] is **to do any kind of act of worship for anyone besides Allaah**.

This will be the source of our salvation, safety, support and gaining authority in the land: sound creed and sound deeds. And in the absence of these things, punishments and calamities will continue to befall those who fall short in fulfilling this condition outlined by Allah. So the calamities that we face and the supremacy that our enemies have over us is all because the Muslims have failed to implement this condition, forsaken their creed and religion and are content just to be Muslims by name [and not by action].